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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Imperial College Innovations Ltd
% Kilburn & Strode
20 Red Lion Street
LONDON
WC1R 4PJ

K + S Received	
Date:	28 FEB 2003
Entered:	
Checked:	<i>(Signature)</i>
WC	

The Patent Office
Patents Directorate

Concept House
Cardiff Road, Newport
South Wales NP10 8QQ

Examiner: 01633 813717
†E-mail: claire.williams@patent.gov.uk
Switchboard: 01633 814000
Fax: 01633 814444
Minicom: 08459 222250
DX 722540/41 Cleppa Park 3
<http://www.patent.gov.uk>

Your Reference: MNM/P33931GB
Application No: GB 0215847.5

25 February 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citation.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **25 March 2003**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".**

Yours faithfully

C. Williams

Claire Williams
Examiner

[†]**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



Application No: GB 0215847.5
Claims searched: ALL

Examiner: Claire Williams
Date of search: 24 February 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1 -12	US 5315612 (Alcock et al) see whole document, in particular claim 1 and Figures 3 and 6

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKCV:

H1C

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

H01S

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI